

Family to Family Key Expectations Building Community Partnerships

➤ Strategy	Building Community Partnerships
➤ Goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To establish relationships with a wide range of community organizations in neighborhoods where referral rates to the child welfare system are high and collaborate with those entities around the issues of child safety and permanency. In particular establish neighborhood foster care and neighborhood resources development to reduce risk and resolve issues of child abuse and neglect. • To impact the overrepresentation of African American children and other children of color in the child welfare system.
➤ Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public systems cannot protect children and provide them permanency alone. • Children belong in families; families need the support of their neighborhoods.
➤ Assumptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnerships between public systems, grassroots communities and private providers can create an environment that supports families involved in the child welfare system. • Connecting families to neighborhood and community sources of support strengthens them and enhances their ability to care for their children. • A network of family foster care that is neighborhood-based, culturally sensitive, and located primarily in communities in which children currently live will accelerate reunification or other permanency plans. • The public child welfare agency recognizes distinct groups as community partners - grass roots organizations and entities, contracted providers, and placement providers.
➤ Key Elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The public child welfare agency selects a respected community person, who is emphatic about Family to Family, to act as the Community Partnership Strategy Group chairperson. They must have vision for the development of the agency/community partnership. This person may be from the community or from inside the public agency. • The task of the Community Partnership Strategy Group is to assure that community partners are on all four Family to Family strategy work groups with the public child welfare agency staff. The implementation of the four strategies working together is critical to the success of the first neighborhood placements of children.